

Antonio De Jesús López  
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## EDUCATION

### Stanford University

Doctorate of Philosophy in Modern Thought & Literature – June 2025 (Expected)

Dissertation (proposed): **Hood Playin' Tricks On Me**

**RAISE (Research, Action, and Impact through Strategic Engagement) Inaugural Fellow** - Supports doctoral students who are motivated to make positive contributions to their communities and the world through their research and scholarship

**EDGE (Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education) Fellow** - Supports recruitment of outstanding doctoral students who have the potential the diversity—broadly defined—of their academic disciplines and fields

Cumulative GPA: **4.06**

### University of Oxford - 2018 Marshall Scholar

Master of Philosophy in Modern Middle Eastern Studies – June 2020

Graduated with Merit.

### Rutgers University, Newark, NJ

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing (concentration in poetry) – May 2018

Part-Time Teaching Lectureship - Adjunct Faculty

- English Composition 101 – Fall 2016
- English Composition 102 – Spring 2017

Cumulative GPA: **4.0**

Thesis: *Gente-fication*

### Duke University, Durham, NC

B.A. (Double) Global Cultural Studies (Literature) and African and African-American Studies (The American Focus) – May 2016

*Certificate:* Latino/a Studies in the Global South

Cumulative GPA: **3.926/4.0**

2015 Humanity in Action Award – John Lewis Senior Fellow (Inaugural Year) – Atlanta, GA

Phi Beta Kappa Inductee, Magna Cum Laude; Graduated with Highest Distinctions

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## RESEARCH

**Spic'ing into Existence: Epithets, Epitaphs, and Ethnopoetic Imagination** (Summer 2015-Spring '16)

*Combined Honors Thesis: Graduated with Highest Distinction in both departments*

**The Gods Must be Laughing At Us: Black Messianism in the Harlem Renaissance, and its Feminist Revision\*** (Fall 2015)

\*Winner of 2016 Mary McLeod Bethune Writing Award

**The Holy Trinity: White Power, Black Agency, and the Racial Aesthetic** (Fall 2014; Graduate-level course)

Research presented at 2014 Global Blackness Conference organized by William Darity, the Samuel DuBois Cook Professor of Public Policy.

**The First Teachers: Early African-American Women Educators\*** (Fall 2014)

\*Winner of the 2015 Mary McLeod Bethune Writing Award

**Hajj of the Heart: Islamic Liberation Theology**

Presented at Middle East in Latin American Conference – Duke University (2016)

**From Dais to Die-In: Transnational Entanglements of the Black Power Salute and the Brown Boycott**

Presented at National Association for Chicano and Chicana Studies Conference (2017)

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## LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

**Youth Coordinator and Community Worker at El Kilombo Intergaláctico** - a non-profit, Durham-based organization that works directly with migrants, youth, and communities of color to tackle the systematic issues they face every day (2014).

**Ever-Expanding Barrio** – I co-taught house course at Duke that, in informal discussions, sought to explore the various plights, institutionalized obstacles, and prejudice Latino/as have to face in this country (2014).

**GANO (Gente Aprendiendo Para Nuevas Oportunidades) Tutor** - a student-run volunteer program at Duke University offering free English as a Second Language tutoring to Hispanic adults in Durham, NC. I've worked closely with a couple of students, always allowing them to dictate the lesson (from learning the alphabet, to practicing for a citizenship test, to reading short stories) (2014-2015).

**President of Multicultural Greek Council** – Responsibilities include fostering inter-Greek unity among three other councils (Inter-Fraternal Council, Pan-Hellenic Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council), advocating for greater multicultural presence, facilitate community-building events (2015-16)

**President of La Unidad Latina, Rho (Duke) Chapter** – Fostered several discussions on critical issues within Latinx community (machismo, black and brown labor, latinx sexuality); spearheaded LARP (Latino/a Access to Higher Education Recruitment Program); co-directed the boycott for a Latinx Cultural Center, culminating in establishment of La Casa (2015-6)

**Making Spaces for Meaningful Conversation** – Selected by Center for Multicultural Affairs to co-teach House Course focused on cultivating deep discussions for issues of social justice, racial equality, and others. Course serves as precursor to annual Common Ground, a student-led diversity immersion retreat program dedicated to exploring human relations through sharing personal narratives.

**Academic and Training Co-Director for the Center for Race Relations** – Student run organization dedicated to maximize diversity of student body, and confront racial issues through sustained dialogue, social interaction, and experiential learning.

**U.S.-Mexico Forum for Cooperation, Understanding, and Solidarity (2017):** One of 30 selected to attend Summits in ITAM Mexico City and Stanford Palo Alto. Responsibilities include networking with university student leaders across both countries, fostered critical dialogue among fellow delegates and speakers, prepare and finalize a group project.

**Director for Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency (2020-Present)** – Represents interest of 24 cities and water districts that purchase water on a wholesale basis from the San Francisco Regional Water System

**Member of the Advisory Board for the New Market Tax Credit Action Opportunity Fund (2020-Present)** – New Market Tax credits are part of a federal economic initiative designed to attract investment capital to projects in low-income communities.

**SMC Leadership Corps Program (Inaugural Year)** – Brings together senior-level leaders from public, private and nonprofit sectors, empowering them with the knowledge, skills, and relationships they need to advance and deepen their community impact.

**Mannakin Dance Theater – Board of Directors (2022 – Present)** – Expands the world of the performing art, specifically ballet, to underrepresented communities. In 2022, Mannekin opened [the first permanent dance studio in East Palo Alto](#).

**Reaching and Inspiring Success Through Education (RISE)** – Board of Directors (2022 – Present) – Supports the whole family from a child's birth to middle and high school through mentorship.

**Catalino Tapia Scholarship Foundation – Board Member (2022 – Present)** – Nonprofit that provides scholarships and resources to college students in San Francisco, Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties. As a member of the Scholarship Committee, I closely work with mentees on academic support, life-coaching, and above all actualizing their full leadership potential.

**El Concilio - Board of Directors (2023 – Present)** – Core service agency in San Mateo County providing food, shelter, homeless prevention assistance and critical family needs.

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

SiriusXM – Featured Pundit in Dean Obeidallah's talk-show. Discussed upcoming elections, Muslim Americans, and other marginalized groups  
<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2016/03/08/donald-trump-s-nightmare-voter-muslim-and-latino.html> (2016)

Menlo School 2017 Writers' Week Speaker – As a returning alumnus, I discussed the idea of writing as an empowerment, using my inner city experience at nearby East Palo Alto as the main example. Read from forthcoming manuscript, *Brown on Both Sides* (2017)  
<http://coa.menloschool.org/?p=15477>

Virtual Panelist for Twitter Town Hall with PEN/America on #LatinxRamadan (2017)  
<http://remezcla.com/culture/latinx-ramadan-twitter/>

Latino/a Studies in the Global South Alumni Talks – *Shahada y Testigo: Poetry as Bearing Witness to the Brown Threat*  
<http://latinostudies.duke.edu/events/antonio-l%C3%B3pez-lunchtime-talks-lsgs-alums>

“Can Poetry Save the World” – Delivered Lecture for 150-plus audience at UC Merced  
<https://english.ucmerced.edu/events/gentefication-talk-antonio-l%C3%B3pez>

Feature Poet for Emerald Project's annual Slam the Islamophobia show to empower Muslim youth in Utah, in partnership with Utah Humanities Book Festival  
<https://www.kingsenglish.com/event/utah-humanities-book-festival-presents-slam-islamophobia-antonio-lopez>

Invited by Black Student Union faculty advisor Sherinda Bryant to speak to students at Menlo Atherton (2021)  
 Speaker for the Social Justice Pathway program at Palo Alto High School (2022)

Keynote Speaker at Cañada College Commencement (2022)

<https://canadacollege.edu/commencement/>

Speaker for Hispanic Heritage Month at Harker Middle School (2022)

<https://news.harker.org/east-palo-alto-councilmember-antonio-lopez-speaks-at-ms-assembly/>

Guest Speaker for the Stanford Dems (2023)

Co-Panelist for “The Relationship Between East Palo Alto and Stanford” w/ Juanita Croft as part of Otero House’s weekly “Pathways of Public Service” Series (2023)

Guest Speaker for SWEET 2023 (Stanford Winter Enrichment Experience for Teens) – High schoolers from East Palo Alto Academy and Menlo-Atherton designed to engage students from historically underrepresented backgrounds in online academic and social activities. I spoke with a cohort of 20 students about the strengths of East Palo Alto, as well as its challenges. We hosted a mock city council meeting where the students debated and voted on a common agenda.

Guest Speaker at UC Santa Cruz (2023) – Visited Dr. Angela Birts’ ethnic studies class, offering mentorship and support to Latino male students at-risk of failing class

Closing Keynote for College Success Conference (2024)

Keynote Speaker for College Track Graduation (2024)

## PUBLICATIONS

***Gentefication, Selected by Pulitzer-Prize Recipient Greg Pardlo as Winner of the Levis Prize in Poetry (Four Way Books, 2021)***

<https://fourwaybooks.com/site/gentefication/>

***The Right to Remain Violets (Tia Chucha Press, 2026)***

“I Can Move Through Worlds,” *TeenInk, Print*. (later re-published in high school newspaper, *The Coat of Arms*). 2012

“Cross Section of the Writing Mind,” *TeenInk, Print*. 2012

“Sobre Mis Pies,” *The Archive*, Spring Issue. 2013

“For My Place at the Table,” *The Duke Chronicle, Print*. 2014

“A Return to My Nativist Land,” *The Archive*, Spring Issue. 2015

“A Return to My Nativist Land,” Chapters 1 – 4, *Duke Library Archives\** 2015

\* Inaugural Winner of Rosati Creative Writing Award - Unanimously selected out of all undergraduate applicants

“A Dying Paternalism,” *The Duke Chronicle, Print*. 2015

“Carpentry of the Oppressed: A People’s Guide to Shutting Down Duke,” *DukeEnrage*. 2016

“Refusing Feeding Time: An Open Letter to my Belonging,” *The Duke Chronicle*. 2016

“Gente-fication,” *Acentos Review*. 2016

“Fugitiva de Sueños,” *Acentos Review*. 2016.

“Sir, How Deep is Your Pain?,” *Hispanecdotes*, 2017.

“A Deer Learns to Walk with Los Bukis Playing in the Background,” *Hispanecdotes*, 2017.

“The M Word Stories: Antonio De Jesus Lopez,” *PEN/America*, 2017.

“Las Chácharas They Carried,” *Sinking City*, 2017.

“Elements of Latino Literature,” *Sinking City*, 2017.

“Thieves of Light,” *Gramma Press*, 2017.

“Workshop 3: A Poem for the Arrest of a Homeless Man Inside Rutgers’ Conklin Hall,” *Eclectica Magazine*, 2017

“Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Paloma Negra,” *Permafrost*, 2017

“A Xicano’s Self-Help Guide to Racial Trauma,” *By & By*, 2017.

“The Last Day My Father Spent in Mexico as a Son,” *Track//Four*, 2017.

“Which Cobija Feels Most Comfy: A Letter to Nabra,” *La Bloga*, 2017.

- “Conjugations of my Tía’s Back,” *After Happy Hour Review*, 2017.
- “Stations of the Green Card,” *Coldnoon Dialogues*, 2017.
- “El cuerpo es un cirio,” *Cosmonauts Avenue*, 2017.
- “Canciones que cruzan el Atlántico: An Aztec’s Offering for Killing an Igbo,” *storySouth*, 2017.
- “When Amá Asks Me,” *Grist*, 2017.
- “Which Pastry Are you?” *Anamoly*, 2017.
- “Body Count,” *HEArt Journal*, 2017.
- “#BrownGirlsSavedMyLife,” *Hispanecdotes*, 2017.
- “Coyolxauhqui Da Luz a Adán,” *Digging Through the Fat*, 2017.
- “Yuri Duty,” *The American Journal of Poetry*, 2018.
- “La Carrera: An Achievement Gap Ekphrastic,” *The American Journal of Poetry*, 2018.
- “The Weeping Tonantzin,” *Five:2:One Magazine*, 2018.
- “Haqq Monitor,” *The American Journal of Poetry*, 2018.
- “The President of the Farmworker’s Union Promises Strawberries More Delicious than Last Year’s,” *The American Journal of Poetry*, 2018.
- “Anatomy of a Monarca,” *Cleaver Magazine (Life as Activism Issue)*, 2018.
- “Sermon on the Rock,” *Hayden’s Ferry Review*, 2018.
- “When Ángela Asks Me,” *Heavy Feather Review*, 2018.
- “How to Feed an Entire Country,” *Bird’s Thumb*, 2018.
- “Ya Es Hora (It’s Nation Time Remix),” *Huizache*, 2018.
- “First Time I was Called a Spic,” *Arcturus Magazine*, (Chicago Review of Books), 2018.
- “El Hadith de Gabriel: Mawlani al-Nabi (December 23, 2015),” *Dryland*, 2018.
- “#OurThreeBrothers,” *Dryland*, 2018.
- “Tasbih (I Don’t Want this Poem to be in English),” *Dryland*, 2018.
- “Tele-Marathon-Machus,” *Barzakh Magazine*, 2018.
- “The Memory of Hunger,” *Free State Review*, 2018.
- “The Disciples of San Mateo County,” *Red Wheelbarrow Press*, 2018.
- “la pelea,” *BOAAT Press*, 2018.
- “JuanGa (en vivo),” *Entropy*, 2018.
- “La Reina de Tejas,” *Entropy*, 2018.
- “Aubade en Portlandia,” *Tin House*, 2019.
- “An Apology to Her Majesty, Queen Cardi B,” *Lunch Ticket*, 2019.
- “Tryptych of the Adobe Cotta Army,” *Lunch Ticket*, 2019.
- “Idolos Among Us,” *Jacket2*, 2019.
- “Grading Rubric,” *Puerto del Sol*, 2020.
- “Primaria,” *Puerto del Sol*, 2020.
- “Magical Forrealism,” *Puerto del Sol*, 2020.
- “House I (can’t afford to) live in,” *Stanford Daily*, 2021.
- “Divide Without Conquering,” *The Almanac*, 2021.
- “Measure I (Know I Can),” *Stanford Daily*, 2022 (reprinted *The Almanac*)
- “The Other Home I Found Is In the Art Itself: A Conversation with Richard Blanco,” *The Rumpus*, 2024.
- “Opening Statement” and “To Keep It a Cento,” *The Colorado Review*, 2024
- “Our Lady of the Westside,” *Poetry*, 2024.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

- Inductee of Eta Phi Chapter of Order of Omega (2014)
- Recipient of NBC Universal/LNESC Scholarship (2016)
- Greek Hall of Fame (2016)
- Karla F.C. Holloway Award for University Service (2016)
- John Hope Franklin Award for Academic Excellence (2016)
- Summerbridge Teaching Fellow – University High School – Breakthrough Collaborative - San Francisco, CA (2016)
- Ellen Ramsey Sanger Fellow – Financially support teachers demonstrated commitment to education
- Community Engagement Fellow – Rutgers University – All Stars Project Intern (2016 – Present)
- Full column feature at Rutgers-Newark’s graduate newsletter  
[https://gsn.newark.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/2016\\_fall\\_gsnews12-21web.pdf](https://gsn.newark.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/2016_fall_gsnews12-21web.pdf)
- La Unidad Latina Foundation Scholarship Recipient (2016)
- UCLA Law Fellow (2017)
- Winner of 2017 AWP ‘s (Association of Writers and Writing Programs) Open Mic & Old School Poetry Slam Competition

Finalist for 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Nazim Hikmet Poetry Competition (2017)

Recipient of Lucille Clifton Memorial Scholarship for the Poetry Program of the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Community of Writers in Squaw Valley (2017)

Winner of Poetry Award at 2017 Santa Barbara Writing Conference

Islamic Scholarship Fund Recipient (2017)

James Merrill Poetry Fellowship – Fully-funded, month-long residency at the Vermont Studio Center, the largest fine arts residency program in the U.S. (2019)

Winner of Poetry Award at Martha's Vineyard Institute for Creative Writing (2019)

Winner of Katharine Bakeless Nason Award in Poetry for the 2019 Bread Loaf Writers' Conference (2019)

National Book Critics Circle Emerging Critic Fellow (2021)

Arnold Soforenko Award for significant contribution to local urban forest. Recognized by Canopy and County of Santa Clara

Supervisor Joe Simitian for my leadership on the steering committee to create the first Urban Forest Master Plan for the City of East Palo Alto (2023).

Winner of the Pushcart Prize (2024)

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## EMPLOYMENT

**Tutor at Rutgers-Newark Writing Center** (January 2017 – May 2018) - Additionally, I served as a mentor at the Writing Center. I worked with students hailing from a variety of demographic backgrounds, disciplines, and learning levels, improving their analytical skills, syntax, vocabulary, and organization of thought.

**Writing Instructor at Cooper Union Saturday Program** – Taught poetry and developed curriculum collaborating with art teachers ranging from drawing, painting, graphic design, sculpture, and architecture (01/2017- 04/2017)

**Bilingual Assistance for Dr. Michaeline Crichlow (Associate Professor of African and African American Studies)** – Conducted literature reviews for Spanish language texts on the Dominican Republic (June 2016 – March 2017)

**Assistance for Rigoberto Gonzalez – Professor of English and Creative Writing** – Helped create presentations, prepare literary reviews for up-and-coming Latino authors (August 2016 – May 2018)

**Part-Time Lecturer – Rutgers University-Newark** (August 2016- May 2018) - For four consecutive semesters, I taught English composition 101 and 102 to first-year undergraduate students. As the most ethnically diverse four-year college in the country, I tailored assigned readings to reflect the wide range of experiences represented in our classroom. By the end of the semester, many of my students would jump whole grades.

**Facilities Worker at Menlo School** - Worked side-by-side with a majority-Latino taskforce, setting up events, moving furniture, instruments, and other equipment, janitorial work, and other assignments. It not only allowed me to cultivate vocational skills, but I gained a personal access to a daily reality for our minority group, often sharing stories of humor, tragedy, and triumph (06 – 08/2013 and 05/2015 – 07/2015 (two summers)

**Library Staff Assistant** - Became familiar with Duke library's system, retrieving books, greeting visiting scholars, worked at front desk (06/2014 – 08/2014)

**Assistant to the Executive Director of Latino/a Studies in the Global South program** - Helped the executive director in this relatively new Duke program. Roles ranged from speaking in classes to promoting the certificate, to welcoming visitors around the resource center, to organizing the weekly newsletter, to flyering around campus for upcoming events and courses (07/2014 – 05/2015)

**District Representative for State Senator Josh Becker** (April 2021-May 2023) – Handle constituent casework with variety of state agencies. On the ground field representative who cover demographics including veterans, Latinos, Muslims, as well as the jurisdictions of Menlo Park, North Fair Oaks, and East Palo Alto.

**Councilmember for the City of East Palo Alto** (2020-2024) – As councilmember, I helped to manage a \$64M budget which includes monies reserved for infrastructure, public safety, community services, community and economic development, as well as affordable housing.

**Mayor for the City of East Palo Alto** (2023-2024) – As Mayor for the City of East Palo Alto, I chair our bimonthly city council meetings, appoint councilmembers to various boards and commissions, as well as set the agendas alongside the vice mayor. This year, I traveled to DC and met with various federal agencies including the Department of Justice, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Transportation, as well as Senators Padilla and Butler in advocacy for our Congressional Directing Spending. This year, we successfully secured over \$3M for improvements in road safety and water infrastructure.